

LIBRARY

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital.

G. HART, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector (at present in H.M. Forces).

G. B. BROWN, M.S.I.A.

Temporary Sanitary Inspector.

Boldon Urban District Council.

1942.

Chairman :
COUNCILLOR THOS. DAVIS.

Vice-Chairman :
COUNCILLOR W. T. WILSON.

COUN. R. W. BRASS.	COUN. R. PARRY.
,, J. CORNTHWAITE.	,, MRS. M. STEWART.
,, C. S. GREGSON.	,, J. TRACEY.
,, C. KIRTON.	,, F. H. THUBRON.
,, E. NEWTON.	,, J. WHITE.

Chairman of the Health Committee :
COUNCILLOR J. CORNTHWAITE, J.P.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
EAST BOLDON.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H.

Deputy ,, ,, ,, WM. ARMSTRONG, L.R.C.P. &
S.ED., ETC.

Sanitary Inspector : GERRARD HART, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Temporary Sanitary Inspector : GEO. B. BROWN, M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Health Department : MISS H. MILLAR.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent : THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH.

Matron : MISS A. VEALE.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Boldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I hereby present my report for the year 1942, a period similar to the preceding War years of increasing duties upon most members of the public.

As in previous reports, for the reason of economy, only a skeleton outline of urgent and essential matter appertaining to Public Health will be mentioned.

The health of the district continues to be exceedingly satisfactory. There was a decrease of over 40 deaths as compared with the previous year in spite of the fact many young and vigorous inhabitants are away on Active Service with a resulting relative increase in an older and less physically fit community. Infectious Diseases also showed a marked fall in the incidence; there being only 29 cases of Infectious Diseases notified, excluding 18 cases of Measles.

The Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation was hurried forward to its proper conclusion, that is to say, we have at least 75% of the child population properly protected. So far we have approximately 81% immunized. This happy result is reflected in the phenomenal low rate of Diphtheria of only 6 cases, of which none of them had been fully protected. Outside districts were not so fortunate and we were able to accommodate 136 of these patients in our Isolation Hospital.

The number of outside patient days was 3,937 for which we were paid a maintenance charge of 10/- per day which brought into the Rate Fund the sum total of £1,968 10s. 0d.

I am happy to report that though many of these patients were dangerously ill, owing to the particular virulence of the infection and sometimes late diagnosis, the death rate was very low and only occurred in those who had not been protected.

Many of these patients left the Hospital in a much better state of health than they had been for a long time. The Nursing staff had been successful in cleansing them of Nits, Lice, Scabies, Running Sores and by means of tonics etc., they were more or less normal on their discharge.

It is with regret that I have to report that Dr. O'Kelly died during the year. Dr. J. C. Forbes is Medical Officer of the First Aid Post and Dr. Modlin continues as Medical Officer of the Whitburn Depot.

Under the Emergency Powers Regulation, all of our Posts and Depots have increased their part-time personnel.

They deserve our highest praise as they have diligently and conscientiously performed their allotted tasks.

REGINALD SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT, 1942.

Statistics from the Registrar General.

RESIDENT POPULATION.

14,350.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Measles	18
Smallpox	
Scarlet Fever	9
Diphtheria	6
Enteric Fever	
Pneumonia	4
Puerperal Fever	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Erysipelas	5
Whooping Cough	2

Births and Deaths.

	LIVE BIRTHS.	M.	F.
Total		113	107
Legitimate		108	101
Illegitimate		5	6

The Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population is 15.3.

STILL BIRTHS.	M.	F.
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	..
Illegitimate .....	..	1

During 1942 there were 2 Still Births in the District.

The Still Birth Rate of the estimated population is .1.

Infantile Mortality.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	M.	F.
Total	8	5
Legitimate	8	4
Illegitimate .....	..	1

Death Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births 59.9.

The following table shews the infantile mortality rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1942 as compared with the preceding 4 years.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.

	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT	1938	56.5
	1939	53.1
	1940	27.8
	1941	71.4
	1942	59.9

Of the 13 Infantile Deaths, 6 were due to Premature Births, Birth Injuries, etc., had it not been for this figure 6, the Infantile Mortality Rate would have been approximately half.

The following Table shews the variation in the Birth and Death Rates and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1942.

	Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT	1938	13.9	11.9
	1939	14.4	12.4
	1940	16.8	11.95
	1941	14.5	15.76
			{ Crude Death Rate.
	1942	15.3	12.8

Comparability Factor.

The variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions. Hence the death Rate of 12.8 is merely the Crude Death Rate and cannot be corrected, at present, for the district.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

One death was notified as being due to puerperal sepsis.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1942.

The causes of all the deaths in the district during 1942 of males and females are shown in the following table :—

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Male. Female. Total.</i>		
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .....	..	..	..
2. Measles .....	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..
4. Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..
5. Diphtheria .....	..	..	..
6. Influenza	1	2	3
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ....	..	1	1
8. Cerebro-spinal fever .....	..	..	..
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	5	1	6

<i>Causes of Death.</i>		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
10.	Other Tuberculosis diseases..	3	..	3
11.	Syphilis	1	..	1
12.	G.P.I., tabies, etc. ....	..	..	..
13.	Cancer, malignant disease ..	14	15	29
14.	Diabetes .....	..	3	3
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ..	..	..	..
16.	Heart disease	23	24	47
17.	Aneurysm .....	..	..	..
18.	Other circulatory diseases ..	2	1	3
19.	Bronchitis	7	3	10
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	2	3	5
21.	Other respiratory diseases ..	..	2	2
22.	Peptic Ulcer .....	..	..	..
23.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	..	2
24.	Appendicitis .....	..	..	..
25.	Cirrosis of liver .....	..	..	..
26.	Other diseases of liver, etc. ..	..	..	..
27.	Other digestive diseases	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis	2	2	4
29.	Puerperal Sepsis .....	..	1	1
30.	Other puerperal causes .....	..	..	..
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	2	4	6
32.	Senility.....	..	..	..
33.	Suicide	2	..	2
34.	Other violent causes	7	..	7
35.	Intra cran : vace ; lesions	10	13	23
36.	Road traffic acc.	2	1	3
37.	All other causes	10	10	20
		97	87	184

A comparison of this table with previous tables shows a decrease of Deaths under four headings, viz. :—Heart Disease ; Violent causes, a moderate decrease in the Pneumonia Death Rate and “all other causes.” On the other hand, respiratory Diseases show a slight decrease.

The remaining categories of Death are as in previous years.

TABLE III.
BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSES OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1942.

(Provisional figures based on weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
BIRTHS—				
Live	15.8†	17.3	18.4	14.0
Still	0.54†	0.66	0.62	0.48
DEATHS—				
All Causes	11.6†	13.3	12.1	13.9
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	49	59	46	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.2	7.5	4.8	8.6
A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths. † These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return. Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
Paratyphoid fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spin 1 fever	0.14	0.17	0.12	0.15
Scarlet fever	2.19	2.49	2.34	1.86
Whooping cough	1.73	1.97	1.58	2.72
Diphtheria	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62
Pneumonia	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).				
MATERNAL MORTALITY : (Excluding Abortion). Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	0.42	} Not Available.		
Others	1.59			
Total	2.01			
NOTIFICATIONS :— Puerperal fever	12.61	15.94	10.80	3.10
„ Pyrexia				17.5†

† Including Puerperal Fever.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the University of Durham at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by arrangement with the County Council.

Bacteriological Examinations for the Year 1942 :—

<i>For Tubercle Baccilli.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive	..... 4	Positive	..... 2
Negative	.....29	Negative	..... 3
	—		—
	33		5
	==		==

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—There is no change from the preceding year—these are adequate.

NURSING, ETC.—As regard facilities for Nursing in the home, and the provision of treatment centres and clinics, there is no change from the preceding year.

HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.—No change

BOLDON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the past year 166 cases of Infectious disease were admitted to the wards.

A summary of the cases admitted into Hospital is shewn thus :—

	<i>In the Area.</i>	<i>Out of the Area.</i>
Scarlet Fever	10	21
Diphtheria	13	111
Tonsilitis	6	2
Tonsilectomy .....	..	..
Measles .....	..	..
Typhoid .....	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..
Septic Mumps .....	..	1
Teething Rash .....	..	1
	30	136

Unfortunately some of the outside cases were suffering from a virulent type of the particular infection, necessitating specialized drugs and careful nursing. Fortunately however, the number of deaths was only two.

Subsequent investigation revealed the fact that approximately one third of those admitted as notifiable diseases proved to be Dermatitis and other non-infectious cases.

The number of Swabs taken during the past year were 266, including outside cases.

Virulence Tests	2
Paratyphoid .....	..
Haemolytic Streptococci	3
Vincent's Angina .....	..
Nasal Swabs	2
Throat Swabs	257
T.B.	2

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Up to the moment there have been but few cases of infectious diseases in this community. SCARLET FEVER began to decline years ago, and has continued to do so. DIPHTHERIA also showed a satisfactory decline in this District. The incidence of Measles, Whooping Cough, Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases was below the average.

At the instigation of the Ministry of Health, the Diphtheria Immunisation scheme made further satisfactory progress. The steps were; consent slips were given to all school children; sanction for the above being obtained from the Education Committee; handbills and posters exhibited; local doctors informed and their consent to perform the work at an agreed scale of payment obtained. Consent forms were collected, particulars extracted and lists made up for the local doctors to perform the work. The serum was provided free by the Ministry of Health. Two injections were given to each consenting child from the age of

nine months to fifteen years. The result was most gratifying. Some 81% of the child population have been immunised. During the year there were 13 cases of DIPHTHERIA in this district. Thanks are due to School Teachers for their assistance in this scheme.

Of the 166 cases of Infectious Disease admitted into the Hospital during the year ; 12 were from Sunderland, 117 from Seaham Harbour, 30 from the Boldon Urban District, Easington 3, Sunderland Rural 2, Jarrow 1, Military Camp 1.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises has been carried out by your Staff on the removal of all cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and on the termination of the period of isolation if the patient has been nursed at home. The clothing and bedding of the patient is disinfected in the steam disinfectant at the hospital. Disinfections are also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from tuberculosis has occurred.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceeding 1942 is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.												
1937	16,740	45	10	34	..	12	6	2	21	2	..	..
1938	16,620	59	9	113	1	10	7	2	10	3	..	..
1939	16,550	23	6	34	..	14	11	..	4	1	..	..
1940	14,900	4	3	18	2	10	11	..	6	1	160	8
1941	14,460	4	7	4	1	10	15	..	..	3	218	65
1942	14,350	13	3	10	..	13	18	..	4	3	18	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year, 13 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and eighteen cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

Six deaths occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and three from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

SCABIES.

In order to combat an increase of this disease, it was necessary to take vigorous action. Posters were exhibited in the district; handbills were distributed at schools, Welfare Clinics, Doctors Surgeries, etc., names of infected persons were listed and instructed to attend for bathing and the necessary treatment at the Civil Defence Posts at Boldon Colliery and Whitburn. In all, some 42 patients were treated and cured. In some instances of potential neglect threatening letters of legislative penalties were forwarded to defaulters. These had the desired effect. At the end of the year, the number affected was almost zero. Patients were finally passed out as cured by two of the local Doctors who were paid on a recognised sessional basis. The charge for this treatment is to be borne by this Authority but is not expected to exceed £20.

CASE OF ANTHRAX.

In March, a case of Bovine Anthrax was notified from Yellow Leas Farm, East Boldon.

Arrangements were made for suitable disinfection and disposal of the carcase. No further infection occurred.

TABLE VI.
NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1942.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
0-5 .....	..	..	2	3	..	..	1	..
5-15	2	..	5	5	..	..	..	..
15-25 .....	..	2	1	1	..	1	..	..
25-35	6	..	..	1	..	..	2	..
35-45	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
45-55 .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
55-65 .....	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
65 and upwards .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	9	4	8	10	5	1	3	..

WATER SUPPLIES.

As before, the district is supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Board. Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the owners. This examination is necessary in case any water-borne disease is brought into the district by troops or evacuees.

Chemical and Bacteriological results are given below :

<i>Chemical Analysis.</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Total Solids	44.60
Chloride.....	5.20
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.28
Nitrogen as Nitrates	Nil.
Free Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.001
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C.)	0.002
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	27.20
Total hardness (degrees).....	26.8
Colour (Haxen degrees)	2
Suspended Matter	Nil.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C.1 Cubic centimetre.

Acid and Gas production in Lactose Bile Salt Broth, 48 hrs. at 37°C. :—

1cc	10cc s	100cc s
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

During the year, your Officials continued with the Training in First Aid, Anti-gas, Report Centre Administration and other branches of Civil Defence for Volunteers and others who required refresher courses.

This army consists of Wardens, First Aid Parties, Ambulance Drivers and Attendants, Personnel of the First Aid Posts, Administrators of Report Centre, Decontamination Squads, Rescue Brigades, Car Drivers and others. Collective and individual training were given to all.

Owing to the call up for Military Service there has been a progressive depletion of male volunteers, hence there are vacancies for males in most of the above services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No important extension of the Council's sewerage system has been made during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

To remedy a serious stream pollution, the Military Authorities have carried out a scheme, by means of which a camp sewage is drained into a pump well and raised by automatic electric pumps into the Council's sewer.

At another camp the effluent from a small sewage disposal works was being discharged into a water-course in an almost crude condition, giving rise to a very serious nuisance.

The extension of these works was in progress at the end of the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Little alteration has been made to the Sanitary conveniences in the district, 7 additional W.C.'s have been provided however, and one ash-closet abolished.

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING TYPES OF CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Ash Closets	77	77	77	77	76
Water Closets ..	4,806	4,878	4,879	4,892	4,899
Chemical Closets ..	..	7	7	7	7

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The district continues to be scavenged in a satisfactory manner, although there is very little control exercised over the tips.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA—

<i>Inspections and Visits.</i>	1942.
Number of complaints investigated	69
Number of inspections other than dwelling-houses	142
Number of inspections and Visits to Dwelling-houses under the Public Health Acts....	276
Number of informal Notices served	148
Number of Nuisances abated	137
Number of Statutory Notices served	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number inspected	4
------------------------	---

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number investigated	47
Number of Houses disinfected	35
Lots of infectious bedding disinfected or destroyed	36

DRAINS TESTED	15
---------------------	----

SHOPS.—Visited and inspected during the year..	38
--	----

CAMPING SITES.

No Camp Sites have been licensed during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Spraying with water is still having a good effect in controlling one fiery pit heap nuisance in the district. There have been no other complaints of smoke nuisances during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

Number of houses found to be infested.....	6
Number disinfected	6

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the district is satisfactory, and it has not been necessary to take any action during the past year in respect of infectious disease amongst school children.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Visits and Inspections to dairies and byres during the year were :—33 dairies and 46 byres. Total 79. Five samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

The following Dealers' licences to use the special designations stated, were issued for 12 months under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. :—

Retailing Licences ' Pasteurised '	3
Bottling Licence 'Tuberculin Tested '.....	1
Retailing Licence ' Tuberculin Tested'.....	1
Retailing Licence ' Accredited '	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

5 Licenses for Slaughter-houses have been renewed. These were mostly Slaughterhouses attached to Butcher's Shops.

No slaughtering takes place in this district except the slaughtering of animals for Home Consumption under licences from the Food Control Committee. The number of animals slaughtered under these licences during 1942 was, 81 pigs and 2 calves.

Inspections take place at the Butcher's Shops and the allocation Depot in this area and at other premises where food is prepared.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council take samples under the Food and Drugs Acts in this District.

